THE NATIONAL RESILIENCE INITIATIVE
REQUEST FOR PARTNERSHIP
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A nationwide knowledge network for stronger communities

The National Resilience Initiative (NRI) is a program of the Architects Foundation — with partners the American Institute of Architects, the Rockefeller Foundation’s 100 Resilient Cities, the Clinton Global Initiative, the Association for Collegiate Schools of Architecture and Public Architecture — to create a nationwide professional and academic network of design studios to advance resiliency in the built environment. Together, these studios form the National Resilient Design Network (NRDN).

Resilience has emerged as a global issue because the increasing intensity of disturbances, disasters and environmental stressors we face are exerting prolonged impacts that change our prevailing concepts of stability.

Resilience is the gauge of a system’s adaptability to disturbances and other transformative change. Using skills drawn from architectural education and practice, we believe that applying creative and holistic systems-thinking to problems of the built environment can result in smarter community forms. Forms that resourcefully negotiate challenges from climate change, disaster, food insecurity, ecosystem depletion, energy supply and social isolation to make stronger communities.

As we look forward to implementing Phase II of the National Resilience Initiative we are looking to identify the next three studios in the following geographic regions:

- **Mid-Atlantic**
- **Upper Midwest**
- **West Coast and Rockies**

These new studios, along with the three existing NRI studios — Mississippi State (Gulf Coast / Southern Region), the University of Arkansas (Lower Midwest Region) and the New Jersey Institute of Technology (East Coast Region) — will represent the six regional areas of focus and need within the ten federal regions identified by HUD and FEMA. A map to the network of studios and various regions is featured on the NRI online application website.

Although there is no direct funding associated with this request for partnership, once the three additional studios join the NRI, the Foundation will pursue funding and work opportunities with state and federal funding resources, as well as with public and private funders.

**More information about the National Resilience Initiative, and the NRI Annual Report, can be found here.**
NRI PROGRAM GOALS

Launching a National Network for Resilience-Focused Design Studios

We believe that deep co-benefits for professionals and academia may be realized when collaborations and direct exchanges exist between practice and emerging knowledge. Architects will design better with the latest knowledge and research, and students will become better professionals with exposure to practice based issues.

To this end, the Architects Foundation proposes the creation of a national network designed to convene existing and emerging university-based design centers and other university-based programs that are engaged in planning, facilitation and project implementation in their communities.

Capacity Building

The Architects Foundation will provide development support where possible between philanthropic partners and the studios in collaboration with local efforts conducted by the studio and areas identified by the collaboration as critical issues to be addressed. Through this structure, the university may be able to attract funding based on the project work.

Enhanced Collaboration

The National Resilience Initiate will offer ample opportunities to enhance existing and forge new collaborations with key built-environment organizations and entities such as:

- Federal, state and city government
- Non-profits
- Academic institutions
- Local nonacademic design studios / centers
- AIA components
- Rockefeller 100RC Chief Resilience Officers (where applicable)
- Public Architecture +1 Program Professionals
Defining, Identifying and Providing Solutions to Key Threats and Risks

The National Resilience Initiative will take the lead on meeting challenges and reducing the risk for communities to prepare and adapt to changing conditions, and/or withstand and recover rapidly from destruction.

To-date the NRI has identified the three categories of resilience as:

- Disasters
- Chronic Resilience Work
- Social Aspects of Resilience

The following **systems at risk** are identified from the three categories above:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Commerce</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Neighborhood and Communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Power</td>
<td>Social Systems (Decision Making / Information Sharing / Social Isolation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>Public Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecosystems / Environment</td>
<td>Public Health</td>
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<td>Water / Wastewater</td>
<td>Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Production / Delivery</td>
<td>Employment</td>
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<td>Services (governmental and private)</td>
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The NRI checklist on various risks and threats can be found on the application website. We urge applicants to refer to the NRI checklist as they apply for the NRI, and refer to the list when listing possible projects and areas of focus.
 MEMBER CRITERIA AND SELECTION

Who Should Apply?

Full and Candidate U.S members of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) are eligible to apply.

General Criteria

Members of the National Resilient Initiative will be expected to develop and maintain a program offering education, design services and other resources to the communities where they are established, in exchange for certain benefits made available to network members. The network will be supported directly by the Architects Foundation and through contributions from partner organizations in order to:

- Strengthen, expand and share the knowledge base of resilient design practices among design professionals through curriculum development, continuing education, hands-on learning environments and other approaches
- Provide support for the implementation of strategies that promote resilience in built projects within communities
- Document and publish practice-based research and data to open-source peer-reviewed sites, such as the AIA-NIBS BRIK platform, that are dedicated to sustainability and design research
- Inform national resilience policy, including codes, standards and legislation at the state and federal level

Community Outreach and Service

Community design centers and studios are ideally situated as a strategy for fulfilling a mission of public engagement and community outreach, and the purpose of the network is to serve those programs willing to serve their communities. The Architects Foundation will provide important connections and influence with the local efforts of other relevant programs to find synergies and overlaps with the design studios, and will expect members to participate in the development of a public-serving mission parallel to and supported by each institution. Ideally, the centers and individual studios will engage in land use, transportation, neighborhood planning and recovery/mitigation planning as well as other community- and regionally- based design projects, all encouraged and facilitated by the relationship that the studios may build with local and state AIA components, and where applicable, the Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities program. For well-established existing programs, the membership would mean an opportunity to provide mentorship, gain access to a rich knowledge base shared by fellow centers, the opportunity to learn about new development strategies and increased exposure of the center’s work, among other benefits.

Network and Knowledge Sharing

The program will provide peer-to-peer networking, collaboration support through local and national partnerships, knowledge-sharing through private online platforms to share research and project activities, as
well as conference calls and face-to-face events. Members will be expected to participate fully in this community of peers.

**Educational Curriculum Objectives**

Realize each university program has unique expectations in terms of curriculum development, we invite input from schools of architecture to develop objectives that may be shared as best practices across the country. In collaboration with the AIA, the Architects Foundation will seek to learn from design education programming that includes subject matter enhancing the leadership capabilities of architects, the promotion of transparent decision-making, and elevates design innovation — all while looking through the lens of the triple bottom line:

- **People** (Civic leadership and human experience): change management, community leadership, social impacts of design, environmental psychology
- **Planet** (Environmental analysis and technical design): Climate change and risk analysis, vulnerability assessment, post occupancy evaluations and research, building performance,
- **Prosperity** (Economic factors): Risk management, cost/benefit analysis, life cycle assessment and modeling

As an example, studio program outcomes and objectives might include:

- Advancing design education for students in architecture, engineering, design, emergency management and other related fields
- Enhance existing continuing education programs with resiliency focused on positive outcomes for social, environmental and economic sustainability
- Design–Build Projects — The hands-on learning that design–build allows will enhance the students’ understanding of construction practices; promote the link between design and the craft of architecture; and give students important exposure to clients, construction trades and problem-solving in the field
- Deliverables — For sharing with the public, all manner of reports, exhibits, social media, publications, presentations, etc.

**Selection Process and Submittal Requirements**

The National Resilience Initiative lives through the work of teachers, students and universities like you. In order to take a leadership role to drive forward solutions for a resilient built environment we need to create a network of impactful solutions and the network cannot thrive without your knowledge, expertise and research.

Please respond to the call for partnership by providing the following documents to the online portal:

- The NRI online application form
- List of relevant projects (maximum five pages) and photos of various projects
- Relevant course syllabi
To be considered for inclusion in the National Resilience Initiative, applicants will submit qualifications via the online application process between **Oct. 12, 2015 and Jan. 7, 2016 at 11:59pm PST.** The form should be submitted by the primary administrative contact for the applying school.

After receiving a full application packet, applicants will be evaluated by a multi-disciplinary review panel including studio directors of the three existing NRI design studios, a representative from the Architects Foundation, the AIA and ACSA. Recommendations by the review panel are subject to review by program staff to ensure appropriate regional, subject and cultural diversity.

**Timeline**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 12, 2015</td>
<td>Publication of RFP inviting universities to submit qualifications for new research Consortium, with a Jan. 7, 2016 deadline.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 17, 2015</td>
<td>60-minute webinar for interested applicants</td>
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<td>January 7, 2016</td>
<td>Request for applications closes</td>
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<td>January 18, 2016</td>
<td>NRI Selection Committee convenes via conference call to review and rank qualifications for consideration</td>
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<td>February 1, 2016</td>
<td>NRI Selection Committee reviews top 10 qualifications and develops recommendations</td>
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<td>Mid-February 2016</td>
<td>Announce three new NRI university members from the following regions: Mid-Atlantic, Upper Midwest and West / Rockies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early May 2016</td>
<td>The Foundation convenes all six university members in a face-to-face meeting. All six regional studios are in place and represent the NRI network</td>
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CONTACT

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Email: Help@ConferenceAbstracts.com

CLICK HERE for the full National Resilience Initiative application and supplemental information.